**Matthew 9:27-31**

**Big Idea:** Faith is believing Jesus can heal.

**Purpose then:** Demonstrating Jesus working in the faithful.

**Call now:** Place your faith in Jesus for healing.

I am going to need a volunteer for this now. And this volunteer is going to need to listen to what I say, and to follow my instructions. So, who thinks they can do that? Great, come on up!

Ok, so remind me your name? Great [name]. So you think you can follow my instructions? Ok so can you do this? [pull face] And can you do this? [rub and tap] How about now? [tap and rub].

Alright, you’re doing well so far. What I need you to do now is to put your hand straight out in front of you, like this, ok. And I’ve got two cups for you here, so I want you to take one in each hand. You’ve got them nice a tight? Good. I’ve got some water here, that I’m going to put in the cups now. Ok.

So if you give me that cup back, what I want you to do, is to take that cup, put it on your head, spin in a circle, and then hold it out again. Can you do that? Go on then. Great, good job!

Ok, so do you have a towel and change of t-shirt with you this morning? No? So you wouldn’t feel great about getting a bit cold and wet? No. Well, the last things I’m going to ask you to do is this. I’m going to count to three, and then I want you to take the cup, and pour it over your head? Does that sound good to you?

But first let me tell you something important. Let me tell you that these cups are special. If you turn this cup upside down, the water won’t come out. Do you believe that the cup can do this? Shall we do this? Shall we do this? 1…2…3!

All dry! Great, go and sit down – give [] a clap everyone![] believed that the cup could hold the water even after it was turned upside down. [] had faith in the cup – [] said it with their words, and even showed it by [] actions, being willing to turn the cup upside down above their head!

In the story from Jesus life that Laura read for us just now, we heard about 2 blind men who believed that Jesus could heal them. That was a pretty amazing thing – giving blind people their sight back is even more amazing than a cup that doesn’t spill water. But they believed, they had faith and according to their faith Jesus healed them! He gave them sight! Their faith is shown by the words they spoke, but even before that by the way they looked for Jesus and found him – even though they were blind!

It’s not saying that their faith did the healing, any more than it was [] faith that kept the water in the cup. But Their faith made them able though to search Jesus out and receive His healing.

For us today Jesus is still offering healing. You see all of us have said no to Him. We’ve turned away from him. It’s almost like we’ve made ourselves blind so we can’t see Him. But the bible says that because God loved us so much, he made a way for us to come back to him, to be healed, and to be with him forever, by believing in Jesus and the healing he won by dying in our place. This is a healing completely done by Jesus, but offered to us if we believe. If we have faith.

We’re going to sing 2 songs now which remind us of the amazing healing that God has won for us and the great power of faith. The first of these songs is sung as a round, so when we get to that bit just pick which bit you’re going to sing, and I’m sure it’ll sound excellent.